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The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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## Identical letters dated 12 May 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I wish to draw your attention to the latest violations of the Blue Line from Lebanese territory. Last night, 11 May 2005, at 11.11 p.m. local time, a 107 mm mortar shell was fired by members of a terrorist militia in southern Lebanon at the northern Israeli town of Shlomi. The shell, directed specifically against a civilian target, severely damaged a commercial building, and it is only by chance that nobody was injured or killed. This attack was launched in the midst of the celebrations of Israel's Independence Day, and is only the most recent in a series of wilful unprovoked attacks carried out against Israel by terrorist organizations, which operate freely from Lebanese territory. Even as I write this, in fact, it has just been reported that there has been another large explosion near the Blue Line, whose nature has yet to be determined.

As you are well aware, in May 2000, Israel withdrew completely from Lebanon, in full and confirmed compliance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978). Since that time, despite the presence of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), these acts of aggression against Israelis have continued, enabled by the complicity of the Government of Lebanon, and with the support of the Syrian and Iranian regimes that have long sponsored, trained and financed these terrorist groups. Such actions, which continue unabated despite recent developments, represent a direct negation of obligations under international law and the provisions of Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 425 (1978), 426 (1978), 1310 (2000), 1337 (2001), 1373 (2001), 1553 (2004), 1566 (2004) and 1559 (2004). The failure of the Government of Lebanon, in grave violation of these obligations, to restore peace and security, to ensure the return of its effective authority and prevent cross-border attacks from its territory, and to fully disarm and dismantle armed militias, is the direct cause of instability in the area.

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Israel once again calls on the international community to expect nothing less than full compliance by all States with their counter-terrorism obligations. Those regimes in the region that sponsor or tolerate terrorist activity are not absolved of their legal obligations to fight terrorism, as part of the global campaign against international terrorism. Were it not for the terrorism and its support infrastructure that operates with impunity from, and with the blessing and direct support of, these regimes, in violation of the most basic legal norms and explicit Security Council resolutions, Israeli measures of defence would be unnecessary.

I should be grateful if you could arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36, "The situation in the Middle East", and 148, "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", and of the Security Council. An identical letter has been sent to the President of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dan **Gillerman**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative